

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-12 ACDA-19 NIC-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /170 W
----- 096182

R 031310 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3932

INFO WHITE HOUSE

CIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USEDEL JEC PARIS 5303

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3390

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, MARR, MASS,

MCAP, LA, US, VN, XC

SUBJECT: TENTH WEEK OF LAO CEASEFIRE

REF: VIENTIANE 3213

SUMMARY: MILITARY - MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED VERY
SLIGHTLY OVER PREVIOUS WEEK' S ALL- TIME LOW. TOTAL OF
ONE MAJOR AND TWENTY- FOUR MINOR INCIDENTS WAS REGISTERED ,
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MAKING PERIOD SECOND MOST PEACEFUL WEEK SINCE CEASEFIRE BECAME EFFECTIVE 22 FEBRUARY. RLAF AIR SORTIES AVERAGED ONLY THIRTEEN PER DAY, GENERALLY IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT. TWO CASES OF LOCAL ACCOMODATION BETWEEN LPF AND RLG FORCES WERE REPORTED. DURING WEEK RLG CAPTURED TWO NVA SOLDIERS, WHILE THREE PATHET LAO TROOPS RALLIED TO RLG SIDE. POLITICAL - WEEK OF 26 APRIL - 3 MAY BEGAN ON HIGHPOINT WITH RETURN TO VIENTIANE 26 APRIL OF LPF PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AFTER ABSENCE OF TWO MONTHS. HOPE GENERATED BY PHOUMI'S RETURN HAS NOT BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASED TEMPO OF PROGRESS AT INTERNAL TALKS, ALTHOUGH PHOUMI AND RLG REP PHENG PHONGSAVAN ARE NOW MEETING ON DAILY BASIS. PHENG PREDICTS PROGRESS WILL DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. END SUMMARY

1. MILITARY - AIR AND GROUND ACTION IN LAOS REMAINED LOW DURING WEEK ENDING 2 MAY, AS ONLY 25 GROUND INCIDENTS WERE RECORDED. ONLY MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURED 27 APRIL, WHEN ESTIMATED 2 ENEMY COMPANIES ATTACKED FRIENDLY COMPANY EAST/ SOUTHEAST OF SOUKHOUMA IN FAR SOUTHWESTERN CORNER OF MR IV, FORCING FRIENDLIES TO WITHDRAW WITH 2 KIA AND 5 WIA. (TOTAL FRIENDLY CASUALTIES FOR WEEK TOTALED 8 KIA AND 16 WIA NATIONAWIDE.) THERE WERE SEVERAL SCATTERED MINOR ATTACKS IN SOUKHOUMA AREA, AS WELL AS 2 IN THAKHEK AREA IN MR III, AND 3 IN THA VIANG SECTOR OF MR II, PUSHING FRIENDS FROM LAST REMAINING POSITION SOUTHWEST OF THA VIANG, AS WELL AS 5 IN AREA NORTHWEST OF XIENG LOM IN MR I. MR V RECORDED NO INCIDENTS DURING ENTIRE PERIOD. RLAF FLEW 90 SORTIES, MOSTLY IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN THE AREAS MENTIONED ABOVE.

2. TWO INTERESTING REPORTS OF ACCOMODATION BETWEEN RLG AND LPF FORCES WERE RECORDED, ONE INVOLVING FRIENDLY FAC IN MR I WHO MISFIRED ROCKET INCURRING LPF RETORT OVER HIS RADIO TO WHICH HE APOLOGIZED, LEADING TO A LENGTHY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN LPF ON GROUND AND FAC IN AIR. THE OTHER INCIDENT OCCURED IN MR IV, IN AREA NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE, WHICH HAS BEEN HEAVILY CONTESTED IN PAST. RLG AND LPF LOCAL COMMANDERS THERE AGREED TO STAND DOWN SO LOCAL POPULACE COULD PLANT THEIR RICE. CONFIDENTIAL

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WEEK ALSO SAW 2 NVA SOLDIERS CAPTURED IN MR IV ON 26 APRIL AND 3 PATHET LAO TROOP RALLY TO RLG SIDE ON 30 APRIL.

3. POLITICAL - DESPITE PHOUMI'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT THAT HE HAD RETURNED TO "CONCLUDE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS RAPIDLY," DESIRED BREAKTHROUGH IN INTERNAL TALKS HAS

NOT MATERIALIZED. PHOUMI AND PHENG ARE NOW MEETING ON DAILY BASIS, BUT PHENG HAS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT PROGRESS AT INTERNAL TALKS WILL DEPEND TO LARGE DEGREE UPON (A) DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA AND (B) PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF VIETNAM ACCORDS. HE ALSO SAID NEW LPF PROTOCOL, WHICH PHOUMI BROUGHT WITH HIM FROM SAM NEUA, CONTAINS NOTHING NEW AND INCLUDED SEVERAL ITEMS WHICH ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO RLG. PHENG TOLD PRESS THAT THE WEEKLY CLOSED MEETINGS BETWEEN DELEGATION HEADS WILL BEGIN AGAIN NEXT WEEK AT THE SAME TIME THAT DAILY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PLENIPOTENTIARIES CONTINUE.
DEAN

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